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RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0244  
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RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LJUBLJANA 000543

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/CE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/10/2018

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SUBJECT: AL GORE TELLS SLOVENIANS U.S. POISED TO BECOME  
GLOBAL LEADER ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Classified By: Amb. Yousif B. Ghafari, Reasons 1.4 (b,d)

¶1. (SBU) During a brief visit to Ljubljana on December 10, former Vice President and Nobel Peace Prize winner Al Gore had separate meetings with President Turk and PM Pahor, and presented an updated version of "An Inconvenient Truth" to a gathering of business, government and NGO leaders hosted by AmCham. Invited guests included much of Slovenia's top political leadership, as well as 120 students seated in the balcony of the ornate Union hotel ballroom. His message of urgency tempered by hope -- the latter recalling President-elect Obama -- received a standing ovation from the Slovenian audience. Media coverage was extensive and positive. Gore continuously stressed that the world needed to address the economic crisis in tandem with the environment. His message was that acting to prevent the worst effects of climate change could help to stimulate the global economy. Coming just a day after his widely-reported meeting with the President-elect, Gore's statement that the United States was poised to become a global leader on climate change took on additional significance.

¶2. (C) Gore's meeting with President Turk focused on environmental issues, with Gore making a case for a "super grid" of renewable energy for Europe and northern Africa. Turk's foreign policy advisor commented that press interest in Gore's visit was among the highest he had experienced for a visiting dignitary. PM Pahor requested Gore's help in meeting President-elect Obama early on in his Presidency; Gore said he would help and undertook to pass the message.

Comment

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¶3. (C) Gore's six-hour visit made a huge splash. It also raised expectations for the incoming administration. The Embassy took advantage of the event and its positive buzz to meet with leading environmental voices, including Lucka Kajfez Bogatej, a Slovenian member of the IPCC who also joined Gore on stage. The activists were enthusiastic about collaborating with the Embassy on follow-on activities dealing with climate change and energy security.  
GHAFARI